

To: Field, Stephen[Field.Stephen@epa.gov]
From: Frankenthaler, Douglas
Sent: Wed 2/12/2014 5:20:05 PM
Subject: RE: Emailing: WATER POLLUTION Pipe break causes coal slurry spill in W.Va. -- Tuesday, February 11, 2014 -- www.eenews.net.htm

From what I gather (from Chad) the state is moving, has issued some sort of order(s), etc.

From: Field, Stephen
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 7:59 AM
To: Frankenthaler, Douglas
Subject: RE: Emailing: WATER POLLUTION Pipe break causes coal slurry spill in W.Va. -- Tuesday, February 11, 2014 -- www.eenews.net.htm

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Frankenthaler, Douglas
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:47 PM
To: Field, Stephen
Subject: Emailing: WATER POLLUTION Pipe break causes coal slurry spill in W.Va. -- Tuesday, February 11, 2014 -- www.eenews.net.htm

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Doug

Pipe break causes coal slurry spill in W.Va.

Regulators are still assessing the impact of a slurry spill south of Charleston, W.Va., early this morning.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection said a pipe carrying slurry from a Patriot Coal Corp. preparation plant near Winifrede in Kanawha County spilled polluted water into Fields Creek.

"Containment measures are currently in place along Fields Creek from the plant to its confluence with the Kanawha River," DEP said in a statement today.

State regulators, citing a company representative, said the coal preparation facility uses the frothing chemical Flomin 110-C, which contains MCHM, the chemical that spilled into the Kanawha River near Charleston last month from a storage facility and left 300,000 West Virginians without safe tap water for several days.

"DEP inspectors are sampling the water in several locations along Fields Creek and working to determine the amount of material that was spilled," regulators said, adding that there is no public water intake downstream from the spill.

DEP said the slurry pipe broke between midnight and 5:30 a.m. The company shut off its pumps and notified regulators at about 7:30 a.m.

"Enforcement action against the company is pending," DEP said.

Today's incident comes on the heels of last week's coal ash release into the Dan River in North Carolina.

"The West Virginia and North Carolina coal pollution spills are a tragic reminder of the pollution that comes from coal throughout its life cycle, from the mine to the power plant," Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign director Mary Anne Hitt said.

After last month's chemical spill in West Virginia, environmentalists sought to draw attention to other priorities, including coal ash disposal rules and slurry pond safety. Incidents on both fronts soon followed.

"A spill of a chemical used by the coal industry, a coal ash spill and now a coal slurry spill -- the common denominator here is the glaring lack of enforcement of the coal industry, which has enjoyed political cover for far too long," said Erin Savage of the group Appalachian Voices.

In a settlement with environmental groups and coal ash recycling firms, U.S. EPA has agreed to finish disposal rules by later this year. The federal Office of Surface Mining is considering a rulemaking on slurry pond safety.